

Squash Committee – Monday 14th January

Attendees: John Cross, John Sawyer, Phil Rushworth, Tina Fuselli, Phil Black, Paul Mayo, Nicola Sands, Geoff Chapman

Guest speakers: Neil Baldwin & Lewis Crabtree

Apologies: Rolf Buhler, Mark Williams, Raja Ram

Neil Baldwin met with JC and PR prior to the committee meeting to discuss a change in club structure that had been approved by the board and was being implemented asap. This was the first time that either JC or PR had been made aware of such changes. NB stayed on to brief the committee on the changes and to take any questions regarding the club and the board

Main structural change is that the heads of sport would report to the committees and the three committees would have a representative at board meetings (except for when confidential matters are being discussed) so they received first-hand experience of what was being discussed and would have some say. No voting rights obviously.

Furthermore, the committees would oversee their own finances and could arrange sessions, prices, investment as they see fit. In general, the squash committee welcomed that subject to agreement on important details such as cost allocations, adequate accounting support and reasonable financial targets.

In general, the SC welcomed that if the figures are provided by the management and we can discuss costs and allocation of such costs against court usage etc. The SC have had concern over the way the costs are allocated against court usage and sessions for many years and we would embrace the opportunity to investigate these areas of concern.

The SC did not agree with setting any budgets or expected result for the year until we had reviewed the position. Break even had been suggested. Many sessions are run as a member benefit and may not even break even. Sessions are constantly reviewed by the SC to manage attendance costs and benefits.

Several members expressed an interest in providing their time to support this

There are no current plans to replace the club development manager while the board look at the club structure and try and form various committees and groups to work on different issues. The squash committee had concerns that this was expecting too much from members and that much of these roles were either for the board or paid employees. Not a temporary volunteer role.

The squash committee also made its concerns known regarding the current heavily dominant representation from the Badminton members. It welcomed however the assurance from NB that the club is fully committed to maintain six squash courts in any future scenario for the club.

The committee had sent to the board an email raising various concerns prior to the last board meeting in December. The board had replied to this email and NB left a copy with the committee to digest. For further information please contact the squash committee.

NB also advised in his letter to the SC of a suggestion by disgruntled members of the fact that the board should have fair representation across the sports. Members have asked for consideration on this by the board and had apparently suggested they could call an EGM if their concerns were not appropriately considered.

For clarity the suggested EGM has 4 resolutions within it. For further details on this please contact the board of directors.

The club Development Working Party has been restarted after several months following the resignation of the previous chair person. The group was considering approaching the members for new recruits. NB is chairing this group. It was said that this would be split into two groups. One group looking at the ongoing project work for keeping the club running as it should be making maintenance, repairs and smaller scale improvements where necessary. The other group would look more at relocation, redevelopment in the knowledge that this would be much more with the longer term in mind.

The SC were presented with a list of repairs and improvements that are needed at the club amounting to 460k. In the bank there is currently around 200k. Clearly further ideas are needed to plan the future and that is why these committees have been set up to investigate options for the future security of the club/.

Social Media - Joe Gallop has been employed on a part time basis to market the events and sessions for the club. Joe is a student from Roehampton university and is working for both squash and badminton and the social committee. Hopefully you will notice the increase in promotions and communications out there. JG is on a 350-hour contract half of which is paid for by Santander.

NS has been working on forming a calendar of events for the club, so JG has a central point of contact and all events are centralised. It would be good to get a club calendar, so members can see a similar calendar. It was also suggested that we should have a coach calendar, so we have visibility of their commitments.

Internal Leagues – TF GC and PR have met to hand over the running of the internal leagues now the successful transfer to leaguemaster has been done. As the leagues are so integral to the club the committee felt that this should be the responsibility of a paid employee. GC had tendered his retirement from doing the league duty and the SC were concerned that all the knowledge of this process lay with one person. Once TF has full understanding and has run several cycles we will look to share the knowledge with others so there is a share of the knowledge.

Junior tournaments – Junior National Gold event coming up in Feb and TF asked for help.

TF to feedback on Neal Desai charity event later the year when she wishes to host it. Maybe in tandem with the ladies' event and social event in September.

TF looking to tender for two further junior events later in the year

Session figures – Lewis Crabtree presented his session figures for the 4th qtr. Considerations were made and decided that a few tweaks would be made before reviewing figures again at end of Q1. LC to attend the April Meeting.

Racketball (Squash 57)– First social session to run on 18th January. 11 attended and all courts used on a Friday night. Consensus was that the session will now run on the 4th Friday of every month (22nd feb)

Pickleball – Next social session will be Sat 23rd February, starting 5/6 ish. Details to be confirmed. This will run each quarter for charity. The idea is to have two sat pm sessions and two Sunday afternoon sessions more for family.

At 10pm the meeting concluded. Several issues were put back to Feb following the very long discussion at the beginning of the meeting.

Next meeting is at 7.30pm on Monday 18th February

The squash committee 29/1/18 – squash.committee@wimbledonclub.co.uk